

What is claimed is:

1. A female intraurethral device for containing a urinary flow control valve unit comprising:

a sheath having a distal portion, a proximal portion, and a lumen therethrough;

a distal member having a proximal portion;

wherein the proximal portion of the distal member is elastically hinged to the distal portion of the sheath; and

the distal member being biased to extend radially away from the sheath.

2. A female intraurethral device as recited in claim 1, wherein the axis of the distal member is disposed at an angle to the axis of the sheath.

3. A female intraurethral device as recited in claim 1, wherein the distal member has a first, outwardly extended position, and second, longitudinally extended position.

4. A female intraurethral sheath as recited in claim 1, wherein the sheath, and the distal member are both comprised of silicone rubber.

5. A female intraurethral sheath as recited in claim 4, wherein the sheath, and the distal member are both comprised of thermoplastic rubber.

6. A female intraurethral device as recited in claim 1, wherein a flow control valve is disposed within said sheath lumen.

7. A female intraurethral device as recited in claim 1, wherein the distal member includes a generally conical distal tip.

8. A female intraurethral device for containing a urinary flow control valve unit comprising:

a sheath having a distal portion, a proximal portion, and a lumen therethrough;

a distal member having a proximal portion;

a linking member having a distal end and a proximal end;

the distal end of the linking member being fixed to the proximal end of the distal member; and

the proximal end of the linking member being fixed to the distal end of the sheath.

9. A female intraurethral device as recited in claim 1, wherein the linking member is comprised of a flexible material.

10. A female intraurethral device as recited in claim 1, wherein the linking member is comprised of an elastomeric material.

11. A female intraurethral device as recited in claim 1, wherein the axis of the distal member is disposed at an angle to the axis of the sheath.

12. A female intraurethral device as recited in claim 1, wherein the distal member has a first, outwardly extended position, and second, longitudinally extended position.
13. A female intraurethral sheath as recited in claim 4, wherein the distal member and the linking member are integrally formed with the sheath.
14. A female intraurethral sheath as recited in claim 4, wherein the sheath, the distal member, and the linking member are all comprised of silicone rubber.
15. A female intraurethral sheath as recited in claim 4, wherein the sheath, the distal member, and the linking member are all comprised of thermoplastic rubber.
16. A female intraurethral device as recited in claim 1, wherein a flow control valve is disposed within said sheath lumen.
17. A female intraurethral device as recited in claim 1, wherein the distal member includes a generally conical distal tip.
18. A method for treating female urinary incontinence comprising the steps of:
providing a female intraurethral device comprising a flow control valve disposed in a sheath and a distal member elastically hinged to a distal portion of the sheath;

inserting the distal member into a female urethra;

urging sheath into axial alignment with the distal member; and

urging the sheath into the female urethra.

19. The method of claim 12, further including the steps of:

providing an insertion tool including a distal end; and

fixing the distal end of the insertion tool to a proximal end of the flow control valve.

20. The method of claim 12, wherein the axis of the distal member is disposed at an angle to the axis of the sheath.

21. The method of claim 12, wherein the distal member has a first, outwardly extended position, and second, longitudinally extended position.